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Homer, Dichtung und Sage. Erster Band: *Ilias*. By ERICH BETHE. Leipzig: Teubner, 1914. Pp. x+372. M. 8.

In this book, the first of a proposed series of three, the author argues that the *Iliad* and *Odyssey* were known in their present form before the middle of the sixth century B.C., that they are unities, and that each part was conceived in the spirit of the whole. "With a single movement the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey* advance without pause and without division from the first to the last verse." These poems could never have been formed from previous songs, since songs are brief and direct, while the epic is full and leisurely. "It is not the greater or smaller compass which divides the song from the epic, but the style."

However, there was song before the epic and traditions before either; accordingly the chief task of the author is to feel his way back from the epic to those previously existing songs and traditions.

Professor Bethe detects a difference in the style of the *Iliad* and the *Odyssey*, and believes that the traditions of the *Iliad* were already in verse, while those of the *Odyssey* were still in prose.

The poet in either case was master of his material and his tools, thus he was able so completely to change, expand, or expurge his originals that they can hardly be detected in the finished whole. A starting-place is found in the fact that Achilles in the presence of the ambassadors spurned the proffered gifts, yet seems eager for them when sending Patroclus to battle. The author assumes that there must have been here two independent sources and thus names one the *Patrocleia*, and the other the *Presbeia*. By dint of keen observation he is able to disengage other songs or smaller epics and to show how much of the *Iliad* is due to Homer and how much he found in his sources. I am willing to acknowledge the industry and the learning of Professor Bethe, but since I can see no contradictions where he sees them, it is impossible for me to accept either his arguments or his conclusions.

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Days in Attica. By MRS. R. C. BOSANQUET. New York: Macmillan, 1914. 8vo, pp. 14+348, 17 plates, 3 plans. \$2.00.

To the half-dozen agreeable books in English that hardly more than as many years just past have brought forth to lure our thoughts to the magic land of Greece, Mrs. Bosanquet has added another of no less charm and intimacy. She writes professedly for the leisurely traveler rather than for the technical student of archaeology, but even the latter will find no lack of accurate scholarly knowledge in her most agreeably written pages. The book may well be read before, after, or perhaps best of all during a journey to the regions she so amiably describes. It may even serve as a partial solace to one whose

ocular vision of the delightful land is a desire rather than a prospect. We are conducted to the country of Cecrops by way of Crete, where the recently uncovered remains of Minoan life are pictured, and thence through "the thirsty Argive plain." Athens of course plays the major part in the book, and its history is vividly portrayed from its most ancient days down to and including the present. Not the least interesting, indeed, of Mrs. Bosanquet's chapters are those which treat of Athenian life of today. Nor is the countryside of Attica neglected. The book is to be most heartily recommended in every aspect.

E. T. M.

Cicero of Arpinum. A Political and Literary Biography, being a contribution to the history of ancient civilization and a guide to the study of Cicero's writings. By E. G. SIHLER, PH.D. New Haven: Yale University Press, 1914. \$2.50 net, delivered.

The publishers announce that "this important work is designed to be a full and comprehensive biography of M. Tullius Cicero." The author in his Preface states as his chief aim "that both the statements of fact as well as the judgments and valuations should be reliable; and to append everywhere a somewhat full citation of sources." This is a large contract, yet it has been carried out fairly well in the text. The annalistic method is followed, and year by year, with some minuteness of detail, are given the events of the orator's life, an interpretation of his acts and motives, and an analysis of his works.

While fully appreciative of Cicero's merits, the writer is not blind to his faults. He admits that he was vain and susceptible to flattery, "like a professional beauty"; that he was timid at times and rash on occasion, inconsistent and rather an idealist than a practical man of affairs. Yet on the whole Dr. Sihler's estimate is distinctly favorable, and he runs not a few tilts with the views of such critics as Mommsen and Drumann. While he was of the middle class by birth, Cicero's training gave him aristocratic sympathies which he never outgrew. The scenes of the civil wars in the eighties filled him with a horror of war and of one-man government which largely controlled his attitude forty years later. He was not a mere orator and politician, but a real statesman. The last five pages of the text give an interesting survey of his character.

Of his more notable contemporaries Caesar is pictured as "the most adroit politician of antiquity." Further, "he knew the power of the sword, if any man in ancient history. But he too knew the venality of most men in public life, and all the scale of prices, better than any other Roman unless we except Pompey and the financier-politician" (Crassus). Our author would not